

2006

New Mexico

Conservation Security Program

Benchmark Condition Inventory

**For Agricultural
Operation:** _____

Completed on: _____

1. Ag Operation Owner and Operator Information

A listing of the operator and all landowners for the ag operation is needed, with contact information. The information is needed for verifying eligibility of the applicant and participants. This format can be used or any other format that provides the needed information.

Name of Landowner(s) _____

Name of Land Manager(s) _____

Business or Farm Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

County _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Numbers Home _____

 Business _____

 Cell _____

E-mail Address _____

Other conservation contracts (Check all that apply)

☐ **EQIP**

☐ **CRP**

☐ **WRP**

☐ **WHIP**

☐ **GRP**

☐ **Other** _____

2. Ownership of Property in the Ag Operation

Property Name or Identifier	Acres	Field Numbers	Location			Lease Length	Owner
			Township	Range	Section		

3. Ag Operation Location Map

The form consists of a large rectangular grid defined by dashed lines. The grid is 10 units wide and 10 units high, creating a 9x9 array of squares. In the top right corner of the grid, there is a compass rose. The compass rose is circular with a blue outer ring and a yellow inner circle. It features a black star-like shape in the center with eight points. A black line points upwards from the center, and the letter 'N' is positioned just above it, indicating North.

4. Stewardship Plan Map

Farm Map Legend

Property Boundary

Stream

Water

Road

Field Number

Ditch

Fence

Well

Pipeline

Homestead

Spring

Trough

N

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Notes

[illegible]

I. CROP

1. Crop Rotation and Management Worksheet *

Field Numbers (grouped by common rotations)	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10
	Crop Name	Crop Name	Crop Name	Crop Name	Crop Name	Crop Name	Crop Name	Crop Name	Crop Name	Crop Name

*** Provide cropping sequence for full rotation length.**

Example: Wheat-Sorghum-Fallow requires minimum of three years of information.

Seven years of alfalfa followed by two years of row-crops requires minimum of nine years of information.

Additional Comments or Observations:

2. Crop Rotation and Residue Management Worksheet

Crop	Planting Date	Harvest Date	Avg. Yield per Ac	Residue Removed Y or N	Amount Removed	Removal Method

Additional Comments/Observations:

3. Cultivation and Field Operations Worksheet

[illegible]

***Need one worksheet per crop grown.**

4. Crop Nutrient Inputs Worksheet

[illegible]

Attach soil test results for the year of the application.

If irrigated, has water been tested for nutrients? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, attach results.

1/ e.g., 16-20-0, urea, liquid dairy manure, etc.

2/ Units (lbs/ac., gals/ac., inches/ac.)

Additional Nutrient Management Information (Attach copies of soil tests, manure test, etc., if applicable):

5. Pest Management Input Worksheet

[illegible]

Additional Comments/Observations:

6. Cropland Practices Worksheet

ESSENTIAL CROPLAND PRACTICES			
Practice Name	Practice Code	Existing	Planned
Conservation Cropping Rotation	328		
One of the following:			
• Residue management	344		
• Seasonal; Residue management, Mulch-Till	329B		
• Residue management, No-till & Strip-Till	329A		
• Residue management Ridge-Till	329C		
Pest Management (<i>if pests are controlled</i>)	595		
Nutrient Management (<i>if fertilizer or manure is used</i>)	590		
Water Management (<i>if irrigated</i>)	449		
NEEDED and/or DESIRABLE Practices			
Practice Name	Practice Code	Existing	Planned
Anionic Polyacrylamide (PAM) Erosion Control	450		
Chiseling and Sub-soiling	324		
Conservation Cover	327		
Contour Farming	330		
Contour Orchard and Other Fruit Area	331		
Cover Crop	340		
Cross Wind Ridges	589A		
Cross Wind Trap Strips	589C		
Field Border (Buffer)	386		
Filter Strip (Buffer)	393		
Grassed Waterway (Buffer)	412		
Heavy Use Area Protection	561		
Herbaceous Wind Barriers (Buffer)	503		
Irrigation Land Leveling	464		
Irrigation System – (Several)	441, 442, 443, & 447		
Irrigation Water Conveyance – (Several)	Many		
Mulching	484		
Sediment Basin	350		
Structure for Water Control	587		
Surface Roughening	609		
Terrace	600		
Tree/Shrub Establishment	612		
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	645		
Water Well	642		
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (Buffer)	380		

Additional Comments/Observations:

NM CSP Water Quality Eligibility Inventory Sheet For Cropland Applications

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Instructions: Please mark yes or no to the best fit answer to the following questions.

- 1. No Surface Water Transport from Field** - High efficiency irrigation (drip or sprinkler) that produces no surface runoff. Flood or furrow irrigation is not included.

Do you have high efficiency irrigation (drip or sprinkler)?	No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
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- 2. No Pesticides Used**-Includes organic farming operations that do not use pesticides.

Do you use any pesticides?	No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
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- 3. Integrated Pest Management** (Choose One)

(Choice A) One or more Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques are used on a regular basis, but less than full IPM. Integrated Pest Management - IPM includes a wide array of crop and site specific prevention, avoidance, monitoring, and suppression management techniques.

Prevention - Preventing pest populations (e.g., using pest-free seeds and transplants, cleaning tillage and harvesting equipment between fields, and scheduling irrigation to avoid situations conducive to disease development, etc.).

Avoidance - Avoiding pest impacts (e.g., using pest-resistant varieties, crop rotation, trap crops, etc.).

Monitoring - Identifying the extent of pest populations and/or the probability of future populations (e.g., pest scouting, soil testing, weather forecasting, etc.)

Suppression - Suppressing a pest population or its impacts using cultural, biological, or chemical pest controls.

Do you use one or more IPM techniques, BUT not all?	No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
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(Choice B) A basic Integrated Pest Management (IPM) system with scouting and economic thresholds is used to manage pests and reduce pest management risk. A PM system uses pest suppression techniques (including pesticide applications) only after monitoring (including pest scouting) verifies that a pest population has reached an economic threshold. Scouting and reaching an economic threshold for treatment with one more conservation treatment from the attach table is applied.

Scouting - is field checking for the pests before any action for control is taken.

Economic threshold-is the number of pests (weeds, insects, diseases, etc.) per some unit (square foot, plant, feet of row, etc.) that, if left uncontrolled, will soon increase to levels high enough to cause economic injury that is equal to the cost of suppression.

Conservation Treatment (one or more of the conservation treatments listed on the following table is used) – is any field treatment that can reduce the risk of managing pests in the field. See the attached list of conservation treatments.

Do you scout for a threshold pest, and apply one other conservation treatment?	No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
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(Choice C) A high level IPM system used to manage pests and reduce pest management environmental risk. A high level IPM system goes beyond a basic IPM system by relying primarily on prevention and avoidance management techniques (see definitions in Choice 1

note). When pest suppression is necessary, chemical controls are generally used only when cultural and biological controls have proven inadequate.

Conservation Treatment (two or more of the conservation treatments listed on the following table is used) – is any field treatment that can reduce the risk of managing pests in the field. See the attached list of conservation treatments.

Do you scout, use cultural and biological controls before using pesticides, and apply two listed conservation treatments? No ☐ Yes ☐

- 4. Partial Treatment by spot treatment, banding, or directed spraying to reduce amount of pesticide applied.** This can be in addition to other IPM choices above.

Do you routinely spot treat, band apply, use directed spraying, or use reduced rate to apply less total pesticide (compared to field spraying)? No ☐ Yes ☐

- 5. Perennial streams, ponds and lakes are bordered with vegetated buffers at least 20 feet wide.** A vegetated buffer must be mostly grass. For most fields in NM, the answer will be no to this question.

If you have perennial stream(s), ponds, and lake(s), do they have a vegetated buffer (typically dense grass) at least 20 ft wide around them?

☐ No waterbodies present

Waterbodies present, buffer in place: No ☐ Yes ☐

- 6. When applying pesticides, maintain a minimum setback distance of 33 feet between the application area and intermittent streams/ditches, perennial streams, ponds/lakes, surface water inlets and open sink holes.**

If you have any water bodies (listed above) on your proposed CSP acres, do you maintain at least a 33 ft set back when applying all pesticides?

☐ No waterbodies present

Waterbodies present, setback always used: No ☐ Yes ☐

- 7. When applying manure, maintain a minimum setback distance of 33 feet between the application area and intermittent streams/ditches, perennial streams, ponds/lakes, surface water inlets and open sink holes.** Application rates for liquid manure pond effluent do not exceed the Available Water Capacity of the soil.

If you have any water bodies (listed above) on your proposed CSP acres, do you maintain at least a 33 ft set back when applying manure?

☐ No waterbodies present

Waterbodies present, setback always used: No ☐ Yes ☐

- 8. A minimum of 30% surface residue cover remains after planting annual crops on 2/3 or more of the rotation; OR, Hay/Pasture is more than 1/2 of the rotation.** Applies to a cropping system where 30% surface cover is maintained after planting for 2/3's or more of the crops planted during the rotation; OR, the other option is that hay or pasture make up 1/2 or more of the rotation.

Do you use a cropping system where 2 out of 3 crops planted have more than 30% residue cover at seeding time OR half of the time or more the land is in hay or pasture?

No ☐ Yes ☐

- 9. In an annual cropping system, no crop is grown more than two consecutive years. If a perennial is used in the cropping system, no single annual crop makes up more than 1/2 of the rotation.** Limiting back to back cropping in the rotation to improve crop diversity for soil health, pest management, and erosion control.

If you grow all annual crops the proposed CSP acres, do you grow the same crop three or more years consecutively?

No ☐ Yes ☐

If you have a perennial crop in your rotation, does a single annual crop make up more than 50% of this same rotation? No ☐ Yes ☐

- 10. Erosion is controlled in the concentrated water flow areas.** Concentrated water flow areas cause gully or channel erosion.

Is concentrated flow erosion controlled in these field(s)? No ☐ Yes ☐

- 11. Conservation measures (such as, crop rotation, residue management, contouring, and buffers) are maintained to reduce erosion and minimize sediment from entering intermittent streams/ditches, perennial streams, ponds/lakes, surface water inlets and open sink holes.** A system of practices are applied and maintained to reduce erosion and minimize sedimentation and transport of sediment to surface waters. Practices may include: crop rotation, residue management, contour farming, contour buffers, grassed waterways, water and sediment control basins, terraces, strip cropping, cover crops, filter strips, vegetative buffers.

Are conservation measures in place to prevent sediment from entering a water bodies? No ☐ Yes ☐

- 12. Nitrogen Management** (mark one choice yes below):

(Choice A) Most nitrogen (manure or fertilizer) is applied at or close to planting.

Greater than 75% of the crop nitrogen requirement is applied at or within 30 days of crop planting. Amount is based on a recommendation following NMSU recommendations or equivalent, and a soil test.

Do you apply N at or close to planting time? No ☐ Yes ☐

(Choice B) Most nitrogen (manure or fertilizer) is applied as a split application.

Greater than 75% of the crop nitrogen requirement is applied as side-dress or fertigation after crop / plant emergence at the appropriate growth stage. This also applies to split application of nitrogen on hayland or hay fields. Amount is based on a recommendation following NMSU recommendations or equivalent, and a soil test.

Do you apply most N as a split application? No ☐ Yes ☐

(Choice C) No nitrogen (manure or fertilizer) is applied. No manure or fertilizer nitrogen is applied to the crop. The entire source of nitrogen for plant growth comes from carryover of N from leguminous plants (previous crop or cover crop), N fixation, rainfall, and soil O.M.

Do you apply N? No ☐ Yes ☐

If choices A through C do not apply:

Choices A through C do not apply. No ☐ Yes ☐

- 13. Where nitrogen is applied (manure and/or fertilizer), the rate is based on a one or more elements of nutrient management plan.** A nutrient management plan provides recommendations or procedures to determine the amount, form, placement and timing of plant nutrients to obtain optimum yields while minimizing the risk of surface and ground water pollution. The procedure used to determine nutrient recommendations is based on **one or more** of the following:

- Realistic crop yield goal,
- Soil test results,
- Previous crop credits,
- Leguminous crop credits,
- Manure application history, and/or
- Leaf tissue analysis (if appropriate).

Do you follow a nutrient management plan that includes one or more elements listed above in determining nitrogen application rates?

No ☐ Yes ☐

14. A cover crop is used in the rotation, or permanent vegetation (such as grass in an orchard or vineyard) is used in the field. Cover crops include grasses, legumes, forbs, or other herbaceous plants established for seasonal or perennial cover to:

- Reduce erosion from wind and water.
- Sequester carbon in plant biomass and soils to increase soil organic matter content.
- Capture and recycle excess nutrients in the soil profile.
- Promote biological nitrogen fixation.
- Increase biodiversity.
- Weed suppression.
- Provide supplemental forage.
- Soil moisture management.
- Reduce particulate emissions into the atmosphere

Do you use cover crops or permanent vegetation as explained above?

No ☐ Yes ☐

15. If manure is applied, nitrogen and phosphorus credits from manure, irrigation water, previous crop, and soil O.M. are calculated from sample test analyses or book values and used to plan nutrient application rates. Nitrogen and phosphorus amounts are calculated using laboratory analyses, (soil tests and manure, test or book values) are used to plan nutrient applications rates:

- Current and prior year's) manure applications
- Irrigation water applied during the growing season
- Previous crop including legume or cover crop
- Soil OM.

Do you apply manure using sample analyses or book values for both nitrogen and phosphorus?

No ☐ Yes ☐

16. Soil Tests are taken at least once every 5th year. Soil samples are analyzed by a recognized land grant university or private laboratory using methods approved by the land grant university for the purposes of determining amounts of nutrients needed for crop production. **Please attach a copy of your soil test analyses.**

Do you soil test your field(s) at least once every 5th year? (Please attach copy of most recent analysis.)

No ☐ Yes ☐

17. No Phosphorus (excluding starter) is applied where soil test indicate a “very high or excessive” rating. When the soil test indicates a very high or excessive amount of P in the root zone, no application of P is made. Exception, starter phosphorus can be applied up to 25 lbs/acre of P₂O₅ at the time of planting.

Do you ever apply Phosphorus (P) when soil tests indicate P levels are already “very high or excessive”?

No ☐ Yes ☐

18. No phosphorus is applied via fertilizer, manure, biosolids, or other amendments.
No phosphorus is applied at any time in any form.

Do you ever apply any kind of P?

No ☐ Yes ☐

19. Fertilizer (inorganic fertilizer or manure) is injected or incorporated at least 2 inches deep within 24 hours; OR Surface apply with 80% surface residue cover or 80% crop canopy cover consistent with soil test analyses.

How does this (first question) relate? Do you incorporate your surface applied fertilizer using soil test analyses?

No ☐ Yes ☐

Do you surface apply your fertilizer with at least 80% residue cover or crop canopy cover using soil test analyses? No ☐ Yes ☐

20. No Salinity Concern

Do you have any salinity concerns? No ☐ Yes ☐

21. Saline Seeps (recharge and discharge areas) have been identified. Acceptable methods of identifying saline seep recharge areas include soil maps and geologic information, soil moisture probes and test holes, and visual inspections. Visual assessments and electrical conductivity measurements are acceptable methods of identifying discharge areas. Visual indicators of discharge areas include vigorous weed growth, salt crystals on the soil surface, lodging of the crop and prolonged soil wetness.

Have saline seeps been identified by one of the methods mentioned above? No ☐ Yes ☐

22. For saline seeps, high water use crops/vegetation or the cropping pattern has been changed to manage or minimize salinity in ground or surface water. An example of high water use crops/vegetation is planting alfalfa in the recharge area. Using a flexible cropping system where planting decisions are based on available moisture is an example of a cropping pattern change.

Has a high water use crop or system been established in the identified recharge areas in question 21? No ☐ Yes ☐

23. Irrigation water is managed to minimize salt delivery to surface and ground water. Irrigation water is managed to meet the crop needs with minimal deep percolation and surface runoff.

If salt leaching and runoff is a problem, is irrigation water managed to minimize deep percolation and surface runoff?

CROPLAND

Notes

[illegible]

II. RANGE AND PASTURE

3. Grazing Monitoring Record - Range

Grazing Record - Range							
Field Name							
Year or Season					Total Acres		
Livestock Type	Livestock Number	Date In	Date Out	Days Grazed	Animal Units	AUMs (Days x AUs/30.4)	Use Class Percent
				XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	
				XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	
				XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	
				XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	
				XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	
				XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	
Totals				XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	

Grazing Record - Range							
Field Name							
Year or Season					Total Acres		
Livestock Type	Livestock Number	Date In	Date Out	Days Grazed	Animal Units	AUMs (Days x AUs/30.4)	Use Class Percent
				XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	
				XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	
				XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	
				XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	
				XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	
				XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	
Totals				XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	

Do you have a Drought Management Plan for your operation? Yes ☐ No ☐

If so, please attach a copy of the plan.

Do you have a Monitoring Plan that you are maintaining on your operation? Yes ☐ No ☐

If so, please attach a copy of the plan.

4. Grazing Record – Pasture

Grazing Record - Pasture							
Field Name							
Year or Season					Total Acres		
Soil Test (year)					Forage type		
Fertilizer-date applied					Fertilizer type		
Livestock Type	Livestock Number	Last Irrigation	Date In	Forage Height	Date Out	Forage Height	Notes

Grazing Record - Pasture							
Field Name							
Year or Season					Total Acres		
Soil Test (year)					Forage type		
Fertilizer-date applied					Fertilizer type		
Livestock Type	Livestock Number	Last Irrigation	Date In	Forage Height	Date Out	Forage Height	Notes

Additional Comments/Observations:

5. Pasture Nutrient Input Worksheet

Forage Grown	Field Number	Nutrient Source	Application Rate lbs/ac	Application Method and Date	Application Depth	Soil Test

If irrigated, has water been tested for nitrates? Yes ☐ No ☐

If you have the results from this test, please attach them to this page for your planner's reference.

Additional Comments/Observations:

6. Pasture and Range Pest Management Inputs Worksheet

[illegible]

Additional Comments/Observations:

8. Pasture and Rangeland Practices Worksheet

ESSENTIAL RANGELAND PRACTICES			
Practice Name	Practice Code	Existing	Planned
Prescribed Grazing	528		
Water (Natural Water or Watering Facilities)	614 etc.		
NEEDED and/or DESIRABLE Practices			
Practice Name	Practice Code	Existing	Planned
Access Road	560		
Animal Trails and Walkways	575		
Brush Management	314		
Critical Area Planting	342		
Diversion	362		
Fence	382		
Firebreak	394		
Grade Stabilization Structure	410		
Grazing Land Mechanical Land Treatment	548		
Pest Management	595		
Pipeline	516		
Pond	378		
Pond Sealing or lining	521		
Prescribed Burning	338		
Pumping Plant for Water Control	533		
Range Planting (EQIP)	550		
Spring Development	574		
Streambank and Shoreline Protection	580		
Structures for Water Control	587		
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	645		
Water Harvesting Catchments	636		
Water Spreading	640		
Water Well	642		
Wetland Enhancement	659		
Wetland Restoration	657		
Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	644		
Wildlife Watering Facility	648		
Windbreak Shelterbelt Establishment	380		
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation	650		

Additional Comments/Observations:

Pasture and Rangeland

Notes

[illegible]

III. IRRIGATION SYSTEM INVENTORY

1. Irrigation System Screening Worksheet.

Field Number					
System type – From Table 1.					
Measurement Method – From Table 2.					
Scheduling Method – From Table 3.					
Water Control – From Table 4.					
Water Conveyance- From Table 5.					
Land Slope – From Table 6.					
Tail water Capture and Reuse – From Table 7.					

Field Number					
System type – From Table 1.					
Measurement Method – From Table 2.					
Scheduling Method – From Table 3.					
Water Control – From Table 4.					
Water Conveyance- From Table 5.					
Land Slope – From Table 6.					
Tail water Capture and Reuse – From Table 7.					

2. Irrigation System

Notes

[illegible]

IV. VISUAL RIPARIAN ASSESSMENT

NEW MEXICO STREAM AND RIPARIAN SELF-ASSESSMENT SHEET

Date:

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County: _____

Land Ownership Status: (☐Federal) (☐State) (☐Private) check the appropriate status

Name of Land Owner: _____

Identify the Location Where the Scoring Occurred: _____

Name of the Stream or River: _____

Attach Map of Site and Identify the Different Reaches

YES	NO	HYDROLOGIC
		Rip-Rap present
		Levees present
		Bank Erosion present (other than outside bends)
		Perennial Stream
		Intermittent Stream
		If Intermittent; when and how long does stream flow?

YES	NO	SOILS - EROSION AND DEPOSITION FACTORS
		Bare Ground does not exceed 25%
		Is the stream down cutting or widening?
		Point Bars (bars opposite outside bends) are re-vegetating?

YES	NO	VEGETATION FACTORS
		Mature riparian trees, saplings and intermediate aged trees are present in the riparian area?
		Salt cedar / Russian olive present?
		If yes: Have they been treated?
		If yes: When and with what?
		Noxious weeds are less than 5% of the plant community?
		Stream banks well vegetated with native plants?

REMARKS:

V. WILDLIFE HABITAT

This check sheet is used to assess wildlife habitat on the Ag operation. Identify all practices that apply to your farm or ranch. Show the location of the practices on the stewardship map.

FARMLAND SELF ASSESSMENT		YES	NO
1. Cropland Cover:	Stubble maintained providing cover for wildlife. No-till, Minimum tillage, or other tillage system that leaves at least 30% residue cover.		
2. Uncultivated Area:	15% or more of the offered area is not cultivated (i.e. Pivot Corners, Field Borders, Windbreaks)		
3. Winter cover in the uncultivated areas:	10% or more of the uncultivated area (item 2) is in winter. For example: Trees, shrubs, cattails.		
4. Nesting cover in the uncultivated areas:	10% or more of the uncultivated area (item 2) is in nesting cover. For example, tall grass, grass/legume mix, brush/grass.		
5. Vegetation Mgmt:	Uncultivated areas specifically managed for wildlife, (i.e. hayed only once per year between July 15 and August 15, or only grazed 1 in 3 years.)		
6. Habitat interspersation:	Distance from center of the field to permanent cover is 1320 feet (1/4 mile) or less.		
7. Wildlife Water:	Water is available year round.		

Additional Comments or Observations:

RANGELAND SELF ASSESSMENT		YES	NO
1. Grazing Management :	Planned grazing system which provides for the needs of wildlife, (i.e. rest at least one pasture during the dormant season to preserve residual cover for ground nesting birds or rest at least one pasture during the elk calving season, etc.)		
2. Rest	Grazing plan allows for at least 30 days of rest per pasture during the growing season.		
3. Brush Management	Brush species are in balance with no excessive populations of juniper, mesquite, creosote, etc.		
4. Water	Water for wildlife is available year round		
5. Riparian	If present, riparian areas provide diverse habitat for wildlife. Riparian habitat consists of at least 2 of the following: grass/forb low shrubs tall shrubs trees or, the site is grass/forb and is too wet to support woody vegetation.		
6. Surface Water Access	Livestock access to natural surface water (streams, playas, wetlands, lakes) is controlled by fencing or grazing mgmt plan.		

Additional Comments or Observations:

Certification Statement

The information provided in this packet is true, correct and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that if requested, I will need to submit a minimum of two years of documentation to support the information I have provided here.

Name: _____ Date: _____

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